

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 /096 W

-----100029 142000Z /45

R 141049Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0719

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 0628

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, PBOR, ET, SO

SUBJ: ETHIOPIAN-SOMALI RELATIONS

REF: LIBREVILLE 0616

1. DURING PRESS INTERVIEW MARCH 9 CITED REFTTEL, PRES BONGO WAS ASKED ABOUT PROBLEM OF HORN OF AFRICA. HE REPLIED THAT "AFRICA WAS CAPABLE OF FINDING APPROPRIATE SOLUTIONS TO ITS OWN PROBLEMS" CITING RECENT SEBHA AGREEMENT BETWEEN LIBYA AND CHAD. HE THEN ADDED THAT WE (OAU) URGENTLY APPEAL TO ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA TO ACCEPT AN IMMEDIATE CEASE-FIRE AND UNDER AUSPICES OF OAU MEDIATION COMMITTEE, AGREE TO MEET IN ORDER FIND SOLUTION OF PROBLEM GIVING "ABSOLUTE RESPECT" TO PRINCIPLES OF CHARTER IN CONFORMITY WITH EARLIER OAU RESOLUTIONS. "WE DENOUNCE ALL FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS. SUCH FOREIGN
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INTERFERENCE AS WELL AS NON-RESPECT FOR PRINCIPLES OF OUR CHARTER CAN LEAD US PARTICULARLY IN THIS CASE TO AN INTERNATIONALIZATION OF THE CONFLICT WHICH RISKS HAVING EXTREMELY DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES FOR THAT PART OF THE CONTINENT."

2. OAU ASST SEC GEN KAMANDA WA KAMANDA TOLD ME MUCH SAME THING SAME DAY. HE LOOKED FOR CEASE-FIRE FOLLOWED BY NEGOTIATIONS

(UNSPECIFIED) BUT WHICH INCLUDED PRINCIPLE OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. KAMANDA WAS MORE OPTIMISTIC THAT OAU MIGHT BE ABLE DO SOMETHING THAN HE WAS LAST TIME I TALKED WITH HIM SOME FIVE MONTHS AGO. IN PARTICULAR, HE THOUGHT NIGERIANS WERE MAKING EFFORT.

3. COMMENT: FOREGOING OCCURRED BEFORE SOMALI AGREEMENT TO WITHDRAW AND ETHIOPIAN COMMENTS ON CEASE-FIRE. I SUSPECT OAU WOULD NONETHELESS HEW TO SAME BASIC LINE NOW. TIENKEN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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